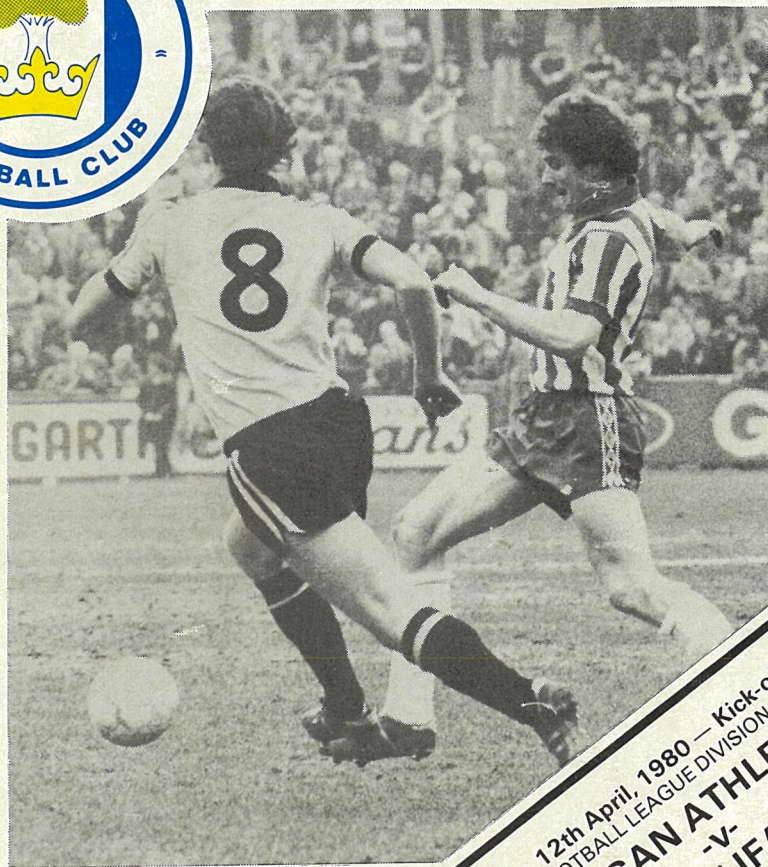


WIGAN ATHLETIC



Saturday, 12th April, 1980 — Kick-off 3.00 p.m.
FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR
WIGAN ATHLETIC
-v-
HALIFAX TOWN

Official Programme

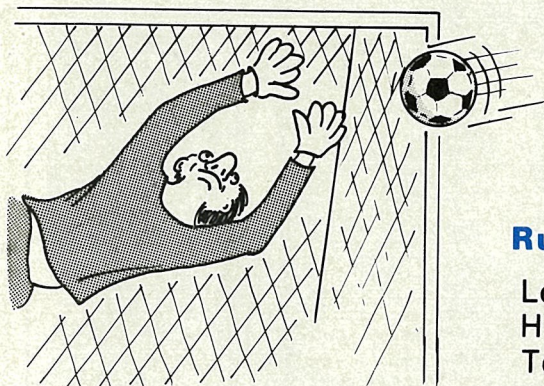
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REGISTERED OFFICE:
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CHAIRMAN:
Mr. A.O. Horrocks.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:
Mr. A. Muir.

DIRECTORS:
Messrs. J.H. Farrimond,
A. Eckersley, G.D. Gorner,
B. Connolly, F. Pye,
R. Charlton C.B.E.

TEAM MANAGER:
Mr. I.M. McNeill.

COMMERCIAL MANAGER:
Mr. J.T. Sudworth.

HON. MEDICAL OFFICERS:
Dr. G. Menon, Dr. S.K. Ahuja,
and Dr. J. Coffey.

Match Ball Donors

The Wigan Athletic Football Club wishes to thank all those who have donated match balls. Any individual or organisation wishing to join the scheme is asked to contact the Commercial Manager, Springfield Park, Wigan. (Telephone: Wigan 43067)

Our front page picture this week shows George Urquhart disputing possession with Billy Kellock of Peterborough United. (Photo by courtesy of the Wigan Observer.)

Personally Speaking

by Ian McNeill



GOOD AFTERNOON.
A warm welcome to George Kirby and his Halifax team. George has made a tremendous improvement in his side from last season, and they have attained a comfortable mid-table position after having to apply for re-election last season.

Easter Week-end

The Easter week-end started pretty disastrously for us by our inability to beat Crewe Alexandra. This was a match we should have won comfortably and it was most disappointing to lose to a side who are doomed to re-election. However, we came back to gain three points out of four from the next two games. With the sides above us scoring maximums, it now remains that we need more or less total collapse from either Portsmouth or Newport County. It is however, of paramount importance for us to keep going and I am certainly hoping for two points today, although it will not be easy to beat the Yorkshire side.

Junior Cup

On Wednesday night, 16th April, we stage the Junior Cup Final between Chorley and South Liverpool. Our fans will long remember some epic finals in which we were engaged and I hope a lot of you will come along and support the non-league sides as it is not so long since we were one of them.

Enjoy today's game.

Ian McNeill

WELCOME TO

Photograph by courtesy of the Halifax Courier.



HALIFAX TOWN 1979-1980 — (left to right) **Back Row:** Andy Stafford, Dave Harris, David Evans, John Kilner, Chris Dunleavy, Peter Burke. **Front Row:** Geoff Hutt, Franny Firth, Paul Hendrie, Micky Kennedy, John Smith, Tony Geidmintis.



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HALIFAX TOWN

TODAY we welcome the Halifax Town Football Club to Springfield Park for our return league fixture of the 1979-1980 season. Last season, the West Yorkshire club had a most disappointing year's activity on the field of play, having to apply for re-election. This time around, however, under a patient Board of Directors and a hard-working manager in George Kirby, the Shay has seen better times. Far more comfortably placed in mid-table, and with a useful F.A. Cup run behind them, "The Town" can look back with pride on the 1979-1980 Season.

The victory over Manchester City in the Third Round of the F.A. Cup will become as legendary as our own success at Chelsea in the same round of the competition, and must be the peak of this year's Halifax Town achievements. The fact that only one Fourth Division club has won at The Shay Ground this season, also bears testimony to the fighting spirit of George Kirby's players. We in Wigan, always appreciate fighting spirit and honest endeavour, and we applaud the Halifax Town Football Club for the credit which it has brought to the Fourth Division during the current campaign.

Although Halifax Town have spent all their sixty years as Football League members in the Third and Fourth Divisions, the club has enjoyed several rewarding seasons. In 1970-1971, the club narrowly missed promotion to the Second Division, finishing in third place in the Third Division that season. In 1934-1935, the West Yorkshire club finished second in the Third Division (North), while in 1968-1969, the men from The Shay finished as runners-up in the Fourth Division. Following that last promotion winning success, the club remained in the Third Division until

the end of the 1975-1976 season, when the return trip to the Fourth Division was completed. In 1932-1933, and again in 1952-1953, "The Town" reached the Fifth Round of the F.A. Cup, while their most successful year in the Football League Cup Competition came in 1964, when the club reached the Fourth Round. The record attendance of 36,885 spectators attending the F.A. Cup Fifth Round game with Tottenham Hotspur on 14th February, 1953, still stands.

Examining the past records of the Halifax Town Football Club, we discovered that three managers have each completed two tours of duty with the West Yorkshire club — Willie Watson, Alan Ball (Senior) and the current manager George Kirby. While in 1929, Bob Suter played in goal for Halifax Town at the very mature age of forty-seven! Ernest Dixon in the 1920's and Robert Valentine in the 1930's are still talked about in awe as great goal-scoring heroes of the past, while John Pickering has the distinction of making the most league appearances for the club — three hundred and sixty-seven games between 1965 and 1974! With such a pedigree of talent, devotion to duty and long-service, it is hardly surprising that Halifax Town produces officials and players noted for their unwillingness to accept temporary setbacks.

Welcome then to today's visitors from Halifax. We look forward to an end-of-season fixture which we hope will be well-fought out and produce good quality entertainment for the spectators. Congratulations on your past successes, all our best wishes for the future and a safe journey back to West Yorkshire this evening.

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Lancashire Football Association Junior Cup Final

CHORLEY -v- SOUTH LIVERPOOL

at Springfield Park, Wigan

on Wednesday, 16th April, 1980

Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

All Pay

Admission: Stand £1 Ground 60 pence

Half prices, in both categories, for Senior Citizens & young people

Match Ball Donation

We are pleased to acknowledge the donation of today's match ball by Stadia Catering Services, 21 London Road, Newcastle, Staffs. (Telephone 0782-622237/8/9). Stadia, in addition to satisfying the catering requirements of the Wigan Athletic Football Club, serve competitors and spectators alike at major sporting events throughout the British Isles. Association Football, Air Displays, Agricultural Shows, County Cricket, Greyhound Racing, Golf Championships, Swimming, Rugby and all types of Motor Sport benefit from Stadia's expertise in the catering field. All enquiries should initially be directed through the Sales' Manager.

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Lancashire League Scene

by Fred Eyre

OUR EASTER programme yielded us a maximum four points to take us a step nearer to the top of the league. Both victories were well earned but the victory at Macclesfield was the most pleasing. Due to the fact that Macclesfield had no first team fixture, they fielded their entire first eleven which is at the moment lying eighth in the Northern Premier League, and this made it a very close and entertaining game. We were quite pleased to be on level terms at half time but stepped our game up a gear in the second half and took a well deserved lead midway through the second half when our well rehearsed free kick, which has served us admirably this season, worked again, with Mick Clarke heading home John Curtis's free kick. The game was finally settled ten minutes later when Micky Moore was rewarded for ninety minutes of almost inhuman effort with a beautifully taken goal following a quick interpassing move which involved Steve

Yates, Dave McMullan and Ron McIvor.

The following game away again at Bolton followed the same pattern with a clean score sheet at half time. Although the Wanderers were not causing us any problems, they did however take a shock lead in the second half which stung us into more action. Steve Yates scored two tremendous goals and then set up one for John Wilkie to apply the finishing touch. Wilkie turned the clock back a couple of seasons by scoring with a wonderfully-timed left foot volley, to hit the sort of goal which has made him such a big favourite at Springfield Park in recent seasons.

With ten games still to play in four weeks we are in for a busy time and we still have everything to play for. One or two games are at home in midweek so with the nice weather and the team fighting for the championship we are hoping to pull in a few more supporters to cheer us into the run-in.

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Player Profile



Photograph by courtesy of the Wigan Observer



KENNY BANKS (Trainer-Coach)

KENNY BANKS was born in Wigan and educated at Pemberton Senior Council School. While at the school, he showed a keen interest in all sports and at the age of thirteen played for the Wigan Schools' XI. On leaving school, he joined Worsley Mesnes Ironworks as an apprentice fitter, and, in his leisure time, played at outside left for Wigan Boys' Club. Ken then signed amateur forms for Bolton Wanderers, but a mistake over his address caused him to miss the dates of the Burnden club's trials. Southport Football Club invited the Wigan youngster for trials, and, after practice matches, was signed on amateur forms. Two seasons later, Ken was asked to sign full professional forms, but he would only sign part-time until he had finished his apprenticeship.

After finishing his trade training, "Banksie" went to work at Leyland Motors, and, after forcing his way into the Southport first team, he was again invited to sign full professional forms. Ken enjoyed three happy years at Haig Avenue, and one of his great moments was when he scored the winner against the legendary Frank Swift in a cup tie. Cup ties played against Liverpool, Everton, Derby County and Hull City were other high-spots. After being placed on the transfer list at £1,000 (a good fee in those days), Ken might have joined Hull City or Walsall, but, being recently married to a Wigan girl and having obtained employment with Plesseys in the tool room, he did not want to leave the area. He needed little

prompting when Ted Goodier asked him to join Wigan Athletic on part-time terms in 1952. For six very successful years Ken Banks shared in cup triumph after cup triumph, including the memorable seasons of 1953-1954 when the Latics gained a 2-2 draw at St. James' Park against the mighty Newcastle United in front of a crowd in excess of 50,000. In the replay at Wigan, the Magpies, with eight internationals in their ranks, mastered the local heroes by three goals to two in a blood and thunder cup tie. His playing days over, Ken carried the sponge bag for the Wigan Athletic Reserves, before eventually being promoted to first team trainer by Gordon Milne. After some wonderful times under Gordon Milne, including the epic Maine Road tie against Manchester City, "Banksie" has gone on to serve under Les Rigby, Brian Tiler and Ian McNeill, savouring every last morsel of success — a visit to Wembley in the F.A Trophy, a record-making Northern Premier League Championship, elevation to the Football League, and this year's fabulous cup run!!

Over the past twenty-five years or so, Springfield Park has witnessed some magical moments and in the thick of the action has been the ever-loyal, quietly efficient, very popular figure of Ken Banks. Ken's family — a devoted wife and two educationally well-qualified children — have every reason to be proud of the Orrell man's achievements. We at Wigan Athletic, have been most fortunate to have had the privilege of being served by surely one of the very best sporting gentlemen to live within the boundaries of the Metropolitan Borough of Wigan. Long may he reign!!

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PETER AGAINST

Photographs by courtesy of the Evening Post & Chronicle.



ABOVE:
Peterborough United
goalkeeper thwarts Peter
Houghton.

TOP RIGHT:
Peter Houghton receives
close attention from the
Peterborough defenders.

BOTTOM RIGHT:
Players of both sides watch
anxiously as Peter
Houghton puts in an
assault.

Springfield Spotlight

"THE POSH"



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NEW AND REBUILT

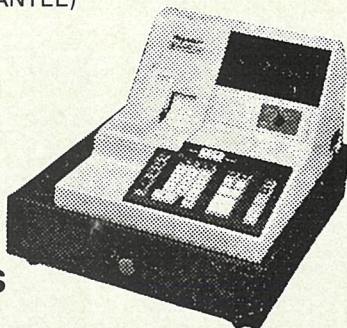
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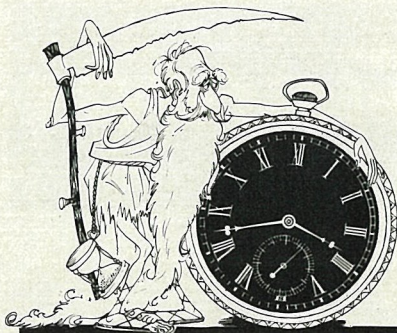


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Down Memory Lane

by Harold Ashurst

CONTINUING the theme of last season's promotion effort, Wigan Athletic's final match of the Easter programme in their first season in the Fourth Division was against Hartlepool United at Springfield Park.

Latics had taken three points from their two previous games — defeating Port Vale and drawing at Crewe Alexandra. The third match was against a Hartlepool United side near the foot of the table and the game was expected to provide two points for the Wigan side. However, it was soon pretty obvious that this was to be a testing third match of a tough programme.

Jeff Wright gave Wigan an early lead in front of a tremendous crowd of over 8,000, but Hartlepool's Wayne Goldthorpe equalised from the penalty spot in the second half.

Latics were still the better side but did not look all that impressive. Their normal speed and fluency was missing, understandable after such a hectic programme, but

nevertheless when Ian Purdie gave them the lead again with a tremendous shot from twenty yards it looked as though Latics' effort and determination would pay off.

Sadly, it wasn't to be and Hartlepool, who themselves had shown no lack of effort, equalised with a few minutes to go when Linacre scored from close in after the Wigan defence had failed to clear a corner.

It was a disappointing result for Latics and it severely dented their promotion hopes, although, as it happened, the results of the teams above them fell in their favour and interest was sustained that little bit longer. Wigans team was: Brown, Curtis, Smart, Gore, Ward, Hinnigan, Corrigan, Wright, Houghton, Moore, Purdie. Sub. Brownbill.

Hartlepool United's line-up was Watson, Smith, Gorry, Norton, Goldthorpe, Ayre, Linacre, Houchen, Lawrence, Harding, Hogan. Sub. Evans.

Referee: Mr. D. Civil (Birmingham) Match Attendance 8,217.

LATICS AWAY

At Hartlepool United, on Tuesday, 15th April, 1980, kick-off 7.15 p.m. Use M62 until it joins A1, thence by A1, A19 and A689 into Hartlepool Town Centre, before bearing right into Clarence Road for Hartlepool United F.C.
At Northampton Town, on Saturday, 19th April, 1980, kick-off at 3.00 p.m. After using M6 (southbound), join A45 to Northampton. Follow signs for Kettering (A43) into Kettering Road. In just under one mile, turn right into Abington Avenue for Northampton Town F.C.

Facts and Figures

Home fixtures in capitals.
Wigan scores first.

Player scoring in bold.
† Player substituted.

² Figure indicates no. of goals scored by player.
* In result column indicates opponents own goal.

DATE	FIXTURE	F	A	ATT.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Aug 11	Stockport FLC1	1-2	6,004	R. Ward	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N. Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton ¹	Brownbill	Purdie	Urquhart	
Aug 15	STOCKPORT FLC1	0-0	7,591	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N. Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Purdie ¹	Davids	Moore
Aug 18	Darlington	2-2	2,063	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan ¹	Gore	N. Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Brownbill	Davids
Aug 22	HUDDESFIELD	1-2	6,927	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N. Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore ¹	Purdie	Brownbill	N. Ward
Aug 25	Stockport County	2-1	3,837	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore ¹	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton ¹	Moore ¹	Purdie	Brownbill	N. Ward
Sep 1	PORTSMOUTH	1-2	8,198	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N. Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore ¹	Purdie	Brownbill	Urquhart
Sep 8	Bournemouth	2-1	4,390	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	Hart	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Brownbill	Urquhart
Sep 15	YORK CITY	2-5	5,990	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan ¹	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Purdie	Brownbill	Urquhart
Sep 19	HARTLEPOOL	2-1	4,877	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton ²	Purdie	Urquhart
Sep 22	Hereford United	1-2	3,891	Shyne	Gore	Hinnigan	Purdie	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright ¹	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton ¹	Urquhart	Crompton
Sep 29	BRADFORD CITY	4-1	8,009	Shyne	Gore ¹	Hinnigan ¹	Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore ¹	Houghton ¹	Crompton	Graham
Oct 6	TORQUAY UNITED	0-3	6,541	Shyne	Gore	Hinnigan ¹	Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Methven	Crompton
Oct 9	Huddersfield Town	0-4	7,871	Brown	Gore	Hinnigan	Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Methven	Crompton
Oct 13	Doncaster Rovers	1-3	4,169	Brown	MacIvor ¹	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart	A. Quinn
Oct 20	LINCOLN CITY	2-1	5,454	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton ¹	Moore	Urquhart	Buckley	Crompton
Oct 24	ROCHDALE	1-1	5,036	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A. Quinn ¹	Urquhart	Buckley	Crompton
Oct 27	Newport County	2-3	4,910	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven ¹	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Buckley	A. Quinn ¹	Urquhart	Buckley	Crompton
Nov 3	DARLINGTON	4*-1	5,001	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan ²	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A. Quinn ¹	Urquhart	Buckley	Crompton
Nov 6	Rochdale	2-0	2,936	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton ¹	A. Quinn ¹	Urquhart	Buckley	Crompton
Nov 17	SCUNTHORPE	4-1	4,618	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan ¹	Gore ¹	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A. Quinn ¹	Urquhart ¹	Moore	Crompton
Nov 24	Blackpool F.A.C. 1	1-1	11,277	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven ¹	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A. Quinn	Urquhart	Moore	Crompton
Nov 28	BLACKPOOL FAC1R	2-0	14,589	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore ¹	Methven	Davids	Corrigan ¹	Wright	Houghton	A. Quinn	Urquhart	Moore	Crompton
Dec 1	NORTHAMPTON	0-0	6,158	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A. Quinn	Urquhart	Moore	Crompton
Dec 8	Walsall	1-1	5,261	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A. Quinn ¹	Urquhart	Moore	Crompton
Dec 21	CREVE	2-0	4,316	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore ¹	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright ¹	Houghton	Quinn	Urquhart	Moore	Crompton
Dec 26	Peterborough	2-1	3,312	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore ¹	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Moore	Quinn ¹	Urquhart	Crompton	Brownbill
Dec 29	STOCKPORT	3-1	6,847	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright ²	Moore	Quinn ¹	Urquhart	Brownbill	Crompton
Jan 5	Northwich V FAC2	2-2	5,249	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan ¹	Gore ¹	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Quinn	Urquhart	Brownbill	Crompton
Jan 7	NORTHWICH V FAC2R	1-0	11,298	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Quinn	Urquhart	Brownbill	Crompton
Jan 12	Portsmouth	1-1	15,625	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Quinn	Urquhart	Houghton ¹	Crompton
Jan 14	Chelsea FAC3	1-0	22,300	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore ¹	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Urquhart	Quinn	Crompton
Jan 26	Everton FAC4	0-3	51,863	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Urquhart	Quinn	Crompton
Feb 2	York City	2-1	2,400	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan ¹	Wright	Houghton ¹	Brownbill	Urquhart	Quinn	Crompton
Feb 6	BOURNEMOUTH	2-1	5,904	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright ¹	Houghton ¹	Brownbill	Urquhart	Quinn	Crompton
Feb 9	HEREFORD UNITED	1-1	6,481	Brown	Fretwell ¹	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan ¹	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Urquhart	Quinn	Crompton
Feb 16	Bradford City	1-2	6,127	Brown	Fretwell	MacIvor	Gore	Methven	Davids	Quinn ¹	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Urquhart	Moore	Crompton
Feb 29	Lincoln City	0-4	3,644	Brown	MacIvor	Smart	Gore	Davids	Fretwell	Quinn	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	Brownbill	Crompton
Mar 5	ALDRERSHOT	2-1	5,018	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan ¹	Wright	Houghton ¹	Quinn	Urquhart	McMullan	Crompton
Mar 8	NEWPORT COUNTY	0-1	6,128	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Quinn	Urquhart	Brownbill	Crompton
Mar 10	Tranmere Rovers	3-1	3,069	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore ¹	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton ¹	Quinn	Urquhart ¹	Moore	Crompton
Mar 14	Torquay United	2-2	2,824	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle ¹	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan ¹	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	McMullan	Crompton
Mar 19	Halifax Town	0-0	1,406	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Shearer	Urquhart	Moore	Crompton
Mar 22	TRANMERE	0-0	5,828	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Shearer	Urquhart	Moore	Crompton
Mar 26	PORT VALE	3-1	4,854	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Shearer ²	Urquhart	Moore	Crompton
Mar 29	Scunthorpe United	3-1	2,140	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore ¹	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Shearer ²	Urquhart	Moore	Crompton
Apr 4	Crewe Alexandra	1-2	5,632	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan ¹	Wright	Houghton	Quinn	Urquhart	Moore	Crompton
Apr 5	PETERBOROUGH	2-1	6,094	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore ¹	Methven ¹	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Shearer	Urquhart	Brownbill	Crompton
Apr 7	Port Vale	1-1	3,812	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Shearer ¹	Urquhart	Moore	Crompton
Apr 12	HALIFAX TOWN															
Apr 15	Hartlepool United															
Apr 19	Northampton Town															
Apr 26	WALSALL															
Apr 30	DONCASTER RVRS															
May 3	Aldershot															

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Fourth Division Focus

by Chris Gill



CONGRATULATIONS to Alan Buckley's Walsall. After setting the pace at the top of the Fourth Division for most of the season, the Midlanders finally clinched promotion (and that after making the drop only last term) when they defeated Tranmere Rovers 2-0 at Fellows Park on Saturday.

Despite missing a first half penalty-kick, when Johnson got down well to save Buckley's spot kick, the Saddlers overcame an attack of nerves to complete a very happy Easter for their fans.

So Walsall have done it, but the battle for the other three places is proving very intriguing.

Newport County did their chances a great deal of good with wins at home to Stockport County on Saturday and at Hereford United and Peterborough United on Monday and Tuesday.

Newport County's six points maximum over the holiday period takes them into third place in the league table behind Huddersfield Town who had a scare at Darlington in mid-week before coming from behind to win 3-2 thanks to a Craig own goal.

Bradford City currently occupy the important fourth position, one point ahead of Portsmouth who slipped up on Easter Saturday by dropping a home point to re-election threatened Hereford United. It could be that Pompey, the side with the biggest home following in the Fourth Division, could eventually miss out as they have now played more games than their rivals.

For the record I reproduce the end of season programme for the current "top five", including today's scheduled matches.

Walsall At home to Bradford City and Newport County. Away at Huddersfield Town and Wigan Athletic.

Huddersfield Town At home to Walsall, Scunthorpe United, Torquay United and Hartlepool United. Away at Hereford United.

Portsmouth At home to Crewe Alexandra, and Peterborough United. Away at Halifax Town and Northampton Town.

Bradford City At home to Torquay United, Newport County and Hereford United. Away at Walsall, and Peterborough United.

Newport County At home to Rochdale and Hartlepool United. Away at Darlington, Rochdale, Bradford City and Walsall.

Whichever way the coin falls, the fixtures listed above make for an exciting end of season.

Looking elsewhere, Ray Mathias, the Tranmere Rovers defender, last weekend completed his 500th appearance for the club.

The arrival of Portsmouth in town brought Aldershot their biggest league "gate" of the season on Easter Monday, when 11,989 turned up at the Recreation ground to see the visitors win 2-1.

Crewe Alexandra enjoyed a similar fate when Wigan Athletic were the visitors on Good Friday. The crowd of 5,632 swelled considerably by visiting fans, was their best of the season.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR TABLE As at Thursday, 10th April, 1980.

Walsall	42	23	16	3	71	38	62
Huddersfield Town	41	23	11	7	89	42	57
Newport County	40	24	6	10	76	42	54
Bradford City	41	22	10	9	71	47	54
Portsmouth	42	21	11	10	82	47	53
Peterborough United	42	19	10	13	55	42	48
Lincoln City	42	15	16	11	53	39	46
Wigan Athletic	40	18	10	12	65	58	46
Northampton Town	42	15	11	16	48	59	41
Torquay United	39	13	14	12	56	54	40
Bournemouth	42	11	18	13	48	47	40
Aldershot	40	15	9	16	55	47	39
Tranmere Rovers	41	13	12	16	47	49	38
Halifax Town	40	13	12	15	39	53	38
Doncaster Rovers	40	13	11	16	57	58	37
Hartlepool United	40	14	8	18	56	56	36
York City	42	13	10	19	61	76	36
Stockport County	41	12	12	17	41	64	36
Scunthorpe United	40	11	13	16	50	71	35
Hereford United	41	10	13	18	34	46	33
Port Vale	42	10	12	20	50	65	32
Darlington	42	8	16	18	46	69	32
Crewe Alexandra	41	8	11	22	29	66	27
Rochdale	39	5	12	22	29	73	22

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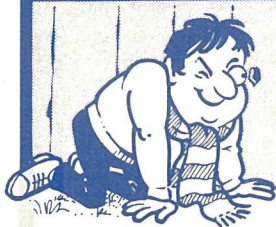
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Inside Information

by I. Spy

GOALKEEPER John Brown is the supporters' choice as "Player of the Year" and it is worth noting that our hero received more than 50% of all the votes cast by the fans. John, who has had a magnificent season after recovering from his knee operation, will be presented with "The Wigan Observer Trophy", a memento and a £25 cheque from the Development Association prior to the kick off of today's game against Halifax Town. Second in the voting was skipper Colin Methven, and, in third place, Neil Davids, who receive respectively cheques for £15 and £10 from the Development Association. To all three, we offer our sincere congratulations, and to all of our players who have worn the Wigan Athletic colours, we extend a hearty vote of thanks for a wonderful season's football.

We are pleased to welcome to the club our new Company Secretary, Mr. Eric Jones, who has already impressed us with the determined way in

which he has set about his duties. Eric, an ex-member of the C.I.D., retired from the Longsight (Manchester) Force last January. In his mid-forties, with a grown-up family, Mr. Jones lives in Cheshire and takes a keen interest in all sport, but particularly keep-fit activities. We wish him a long and happy stay with our club.

Mr. Harold Finch, Programme Editor and Manager of the Club Shop for Crewe Alexandra, has asked us to pass on his appreciation and gratitude for the courtesy and patience of the Wigan fans visiting his shop in Gresty Road on Good Friday. The fact that Harold, who works for the Railwaymen in a part-time capacity has taken the trouble to contact our club in his own time says much for the character of the man. We thank you, Crewe Alexandra, for your hospitality on Good Friday and we hope you don't mind our mentioning how lucky you are to have the loyal services of Harold Finch.

ONCE AGAIN, from all the staff at the Supporters' Club a warm welcome to you all. My apologies to our members who wished to pay their 1980/81 subscriptions last Saturday. Hopefully we will be prepared to take them at today's match and also at the last two remaining home games.

At the time of writing we are still awaiting confirmation from the directors, as to what the subscription figure will be for the forthcoming year.

Sorry to say that our nomination for Rothmans' "Supporter of the Year" was placed in third place at the Regional Final held at Anfield on Wednesday, 2nd April. Liverpool's entrant was first, Rochdale's contestant second, with our own representative gaining third place, followed by the rest of the field. Our most sincere thanks to Mick Moss for his continued efforts on behalf of the "Latics", and the best of luck to him at the Federation Individual Quiz Contest to be held at Blackpool on Saturday, 17th May. Whilst at Anfield, I was able to meet the National Federation of Supporters' Club's Secretary, and expressed our concern at the lack of facilities available to our members at other supporters' clubs. Apparently, it has always been that way and it is still the Federation's aim that club membership should be affiliated, but apparently there is no legal way this can be enforced. Mr. Tony Pullein did promise to include this matter in the agenda at the A.G.M. to be held at Cobham in the close season.

However, in the light of an incident at Crewe on

Supporters Club News



Good Friday, we propose to attempt to obtain an explanation at the Regional Meeting to be held at Blackburn, tomorrow Sunday, 13th April.

We still have two unclaimed prizes from our recent "penny raffle" — Ticket No. 1700 was sold at the Tranmere Rovers game, and Ticket No. 6314 at the Port Vale match. If you have these tickets, please contact me as soon as possible. Meanwhile, our best wishes to all.

Sincerely,

Peter Woods.



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A last word from the chairman . . .

ON BEHALF of the Wigan Athletic Football Club, I am pleased to welcome the Chairman, directors, staff and supporters of the Halifax Town Football Club to Springfield Park. Since joining the Football League, we have had the better of our clashes with the West Yorkshire Club, winning two and drawing one of the three games played. However, each game, as befits the traditional rivalry between Lancashire and Yorkshire, has been a closely-fought affair and no doubt today's game will again be finely balanced. Like ourselves, Halifax Town have tasted F.A. Cup glory this season and their players will recall with pride for years to come the day when the men from the Shay toppled the mighty Manchester City. Since my last notes, we have played three very demanding Easter fixtures, and everyone at the club was a little disappointed not to gain a better points return from the games with Crewe Alexandra, Peterborough United and Port Vale. Three points from the six points at stake were fewer than we had anticipated, but I can assure our loyal following that, until such time as it is mathematically impossible for us to claim a top four league placing, it is our intention to battle on through our remaining fixtures.



Prior to today's game, over one hundred and fifty thousand spectators have attended this season's first team competitive fixtures at Springfield Park. Add to this figure the one hundred and seventy thousand plus spectators who watched our home games in the 1978-1979 season, and you will get a true indication of just how eager the Wigan public has been to welcome League Football. If we can maintain, and build upon, these excellent figures, the Wigan Athletic Football Club does indeed have a very bright future.

Thank you again,
Sincerely,
A. O. Horrocks, Chairman

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. O. Horrocks', written over a horizontal line.

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Teams

**Wigan
Athletic**
Royal Blue
& White Stripes

John Brown	1	John Kilner
Dave Fretwell	2	Chris Dunleavy
Maurice Whittle	3	Geoff Hutt
Tommy Gore	4	Dave Evans
Colin Methven	5	Dave Harris
Neil Davids	6	Paul Hendrie
Frank Corrigan	7	Franny Firth
Jeff Wright	8	Mick Kennedy
Peter Houghton	9	Peter Burke
David Shearer	10	Bob Mountford
George Urquhart	11	John Smith
Tony Quinn	12	Vernon Allott

**Halifax
Town**
All Yellow

Officials

Referee:
Mr. A. Seville
(Birmingham)

He is a married man with two daughters, and works as a Tool-maker. His main interest — apart from football — is Crown Green bowling.

Linesmen:
Red Flag
Mr. J. Constable
(Blackburn)

Yellow Flag
Mr. S. Sefton
(Liverpool)

Here next...

Saturday, 26th April, 1980 — Kick-off 3.00 p.m.
WIGAN ATHLETIC -v- WALSALL
Football League Division Four